

MISCELLANEOUS.

Greyhounds run Wild.

IN May 1814 I saw, in the Jardin des Plantes, at Paris, two, or perhaps three, animals, which I should have declared, on my oath, to the best of my knowledge and belief, to be neither more nor less than wire-haired Scotch greyhounds, which were labelled "Loups des Pyrénées." Now I know, of my own knowledge, that the roads in the seat of war were at that time so encumbered with dead baggage-animals, that the sporting dogs of the English officers took the opportunity of being independent of their masters for food, to turn wild and live upon the country. I remember riding towards half a dozen of them feasting on a dead mule, when they with one accord formed line between me and their prey, and advanced against me with one disciplined howl; insomuch that I retired, lest they should proceed to try to add me and my horse to their larder.

It has within these few days occurred to me as possible that some ingenious Frenchman, between joke and earnest, may have seized on a portion of these dogs, and sent them to Paris with a "Voilà les véritables loups des Pyrénées." I am sure what I saw were Scotch greyhounds, and nothing else. I remember that one or more of them was savage and ill-tempered, as dogs are given to be when shut up in cages. I remember seeing two Cuban bloodhounds in a cage at the Zoological Gardens, one of which was as savage as any hyæna. I have a notion that dogs at large would have no difficulty in returning to the wild state if exposed to temptation.

I have written to my son, who is at Pau, to ask him if he can throw any light on the point. He reports seeing young wolves brought in to Pau as a show.—T. P. T.

On the Perforating Bryozoa of the Family Terebriporidæ.

By P. FISCHER.

The existence of perforating animals has been ascertained in nearly all the classes of Invertebrata—Mollusca, Annelida, Echinodermata, Spongiaria, &c.; the vegetable kingdom likewise presents us with examples of Protophyta hollowing out their residence in shells and stones. Perforation and, consequently, the destruction of the perforated bodies are therefore the effects of a great law of nature. By the side of the creatures which accumulate masses of calcareous polyparies, and of those of which the shells strew our shores and cover the bottom of the sea, nature has placed other organisms, smaller but not less powerful in their effects, which restore to the ocean the elements which have been drawn from it.

Among the Bryozoa the existence of terebrant cells is almost a new fact. It was known that some *Lepraliæ* and *Celleporæ* slightly alter the surface of the shells to which they attach themselves; but before the discovery of Alcide d'Orbigny, no one had ever seen them lodged in the very interior of the shells.

The agents by which the perforation is effected are still unknown to us; we have been unable to detect siliceous corpuscles in the excavations of the *Terebripora*—a circumstance which of itself would suffice to distinguish them from the terebrant Sponges (*Cliona*, *Thoosa*), even if their organization were not infinitely superior. Until we acquire fuller information, therefore, we shall assume that the perforation is due to a chemical action.

In the commencement of this memoir we shall indicate a serious gap. We have been unable to study the animals whose habitations are described. In excuse we may say that the existence of their excavations is tolerably evident, and that the cells of the living *Terebripora* of the French coasts are scarcely 0·09 millim. in length.

The systematic arrangement of our Bryozoa is consequently founded upon the form of their cells, their grouping, and development—characters which are sufficient for their identification.

The genus *Terebripora* was established by A. d'Orbigny for two Bryozoans collected during his voyage in South America—one on the coast of Peru, the other at the Falkland Islands. D'Orbigny indicates that this genus differs from all others in its class by its cells hollowed out in the very substance of shells, their arrangement being identical with, and their mode of production similar to, those of *Hippothoa*. Since the publication just referred to, no author has made mention of the *Terebripora*.

The investigations which I have undertaken upon the terebrant Sponges in a fossil state led me incidentally to ascertain how widely the *Terebripora* are diffused in the Secondary and Tertiary beds. I have detected four or five species in the former, and as many in the latter. Their presence in the middle Tertiary beds of Touraine and the Astésan led me to expect that this genus was perhaps not yet extinct in the European seas, when, in September 1865, I collected in the harbour of Arcachon (Gironde) an oyster perforated by a colony of *Terebripora*. The same species occurs in the Mediterranean.

From the examination of this specimen it is easy to rectify some incorrect statements made by D'Orbigny, who represented the apertures of the cells as round, whereas they are furnished with a notch of greater or less extent—a character of great importance in the classification of the Bryozoa.

Besides *Terebripora*, I have found, on the coasts of the Gironde and the Charente-Inférieure a Bryozoan belonging to the same family and having the same habits, but differing in having its cells alternate and borne upon alternate axes. It leaves upon the shells elegant impressions resembling the ramifications of the *Sertulariæ*. I propose to name it *Spathipora*.

The living *Spathipora* are not numerous. I know only two species—one from the coasts of France and of the Mediterranean, the other from the Pacific; but the former does not differ notably from a Bryozoan which has perforated with its colonies the shells of the Faluns of Touraine.

To sum up. The *Terebriporæ* and *Spathiporæ* constitute a very natural group, of which the species are probably very numerous. The interest which it presents is increased by the evidence of its existence during the whole series of secondary and tertiary deposits. I arrange the family *Terebriporidæ* in the order of Cheilostomatous Bryozoa, side by side with the *Hippothoidæ*. The latter family is composed of the true *Hippothoæ* (*H. divaricata*, *patagonica*, &c.) and the new genus *Cercaripora*, Fischer, established for the reception of *Cetea truncata*, *ligulata*, *argillacea*, &c.—*Comptes Rendus*, April 30, 1866, pp. 985-987.

On the Systematic Position of the Lepidosirens.

By Professor W. PETERS.

The author recapitulated the external and internal characters which he considers to prove the piscine nature of the genera *Lepidosiren* and *Protopterus*, and then indicated the circumstances which appear to be opposed to the union of these animals with the Ganoids, as recommended some years ago by Gill (*Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Philad.* 1861, pp. 13 *et seq.*) and more recently by Brandt (*Bull. Acad. St. Pétersb.* 1865, p. 139). He remarked that the distinctions of the six subclasses of fishes established by J. Müller were to be sought chiefly in the central organs of the circulation and respiration, and that, according to this view, the *Lepidosirens* differ essentially from the *Ganoidei* (without taking into consideration the structure of the auricle and the valves of the aorta) by the absence of a muscular coat in the base of the aorta, and by the form of the laminar branchiæ, united to each other as far as the middle and destitute of cartilaginous supports.

In opposition to the opinion put forward by Dr. Steindachner, that the external branchiæ of *Protopterus* are of importance only during the embryonal and earliest periods of life, it was shown that these organs increase in size even after the animals have attained a reproductive age (at less than $\frac{1}{3}$ mètre in length), and that, if they are found quite aborted in very old individuals, this cannot be regarded as a normal, but only as an individual occurrence. This is the more probable, as the branchiæ are wanting on the left side of a specimen only $\frac{1}{2}$ mètre in length in the Berlin Museum. The author further indicated that, even if external branchiæ similar to those of *Protopterus* were to be discovered on *Lepidosiren*, the composite structure of the paired fins of *Rhinocryptis* (*Protopterus*) would remain as an essential difference between the genera.—*Monatsber. Berl. Akad. Wiss.* January 11, 1866, pp. 12, 13.

Remarks on some Bones of the Dodo (Didus ineptus) recently collected in the Mauritius. By ALPH. MILNE-EDWARDS.

Some months since, in draining a small marsh called the *Mare aux Songes*, Mr. George Clark, of Mahébourg, discovered therein a considerable number of bones of the Dodo. These bones were sent